

Calderon, Wanda

From: Patricia_B <patriciaborns@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 10:01 AM
To: Calderon, Wanda
Cc: Senn, John; Rodriguez, Elias; Mears, Mary; Simon, Paul
Subject: Re: Media query and FOIA request on deadline

Hi, Wanda, so done. See the FOIA tracking receipt forwarded to you separately and the info below:

Tracking Number: EPA-2021-005178

Requester Name: Patricia Borns

Date Submitted: 06/29/2021

Request Status: Submitted

Description: In May EPA Region 2 issued a 60-day shutdown order to Limetree Bay refinery on St. Croix. The order included a requirement for an independent audit of the refinery to determine what is needed for operations to resume safely. The result according to one of our sources is two audits that were reportedly submitted to EPA Region 2 on Friday. I am a reporter for Virgin Islands Source and am requesting the audits in order to report to Virgin Islanders what it will take for the refinery to re-open. This is especially important because this transparency was lacking when the plant started up last February after almost 10 years in mothballs. Under the Trump EPA, the exceptions granted the refinery allowed a hasty restart without appropriate modernization. The resulting toxic flares and oil sprays affecting dozens of downwind neighborhoods caused an EPA-ordered shutdown after less than four months of operation. Our story based on the audit, which is on deadline today, will help Virgin Islanders hold the refinery and government accountable for a safer restart.

Patricia Borns

Virgin Islands Source

Cell/Whatsapp: (340) 227-8275

@PatriciaBorns

[linkedin.com/in/patriciaborns](https://www.linkedin.com/in/patriciaborns)

On Tue, Jun 29, 2021 at 9:58 AM Calderon, Wanda <Calderon.Wanda@epa.gov> wrote:

Hello again,

Yes, please re-submit your FOIA request with a focus on the system acknowledgement notice for confirmation purposes. You may also feel free to share the receipt notice with me directly. I'll utilize it for further tracking.

Thanks for contacting me and utilizing FOIA.

Respectfully,

Wanda Calderon

Government Information Specialist

Office of Regional Counsel

U.S. EPA Region 2 Lead FOIA Program (LFP)

212-637-3668

calderon.wanda@epa.gov

www.epa.gov/foia



From: Patricia_B <patriciaborns@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 9:23 AM

To: Calderon, Wanda <Calderon.Wanda@epa.gov>

Cc: Senn, John <Senn.John@epa.gov>; Rodriguez, Elias <Rodriguez.Elias@epa.gov>; Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>; Simon, Paul <Simon.Paul@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: Media query and FOIA request on deadline

Thanks, Wanda. As we talked about, I didn't get a receipt for the online request.

Do you think I should try it again?

Patricia Borns

Virgin Islands Source

Cell/Whatsapp: (340) 227-8275

@PatriciaBorns

[linkedin.com/in/patriciaborns](https://www.linkedin.com/in/patriciaborns)

On Tue, Jun 29, 2021 at 9:15 AM Calderon, Wanda <Calderon.Wanda@epa.gov> wrote:

Hi Patricia,

Thanks for following up on your FOIA request with EPA's Region 2 FOIA program. As noted, based on locality, the request would've been assigned to my region by the National FOIA Office for response. I've not received it on re-assignment thus far. As I stated during our phone conversation, I'm unsure if your FOIA request was successfully received due to the absence of the "request acknowledgement" email which is automatically generated upon submittal. Having said this, I did offer to assist with tracking the request. I will do so.

You may also feel free to contact our Public Affairs Office for additional assistance.

Respectfully,

Wanda Calderon

Government Information Specialist

Office of Regional Counsel

U.S. EPA Region 2 Lead FOIA Program (LFP)

212-637-3668

calderon.wanda@epa.gov

www.epa.gov/foia



From: Patricia_B <patriciaborns@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, June 29, 2021 8:55 AM

To: Calderon, Wanda <Calderon.Wanda@epa.gov>

Cc: Senn, John <Senn.John@epa.gov>; Rodriguez, Elias <Rodriguez.Elias@epa.gov>; Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>

Subject: Fwd: Media query and FOIA request on deadline

Wanda,

Thanks for offering to help with the below request on deadline. As we discussed, I completed the FOIA request this morning but didn't receive a confirmation. I really appreciate your suggesting this is something better obtained from the Region 2 EPA office, because in this case, Walter Mugdan promised to make the audits available to the public. When the EPA previously allowed Limetree to open without this transparency, the result was environmental mayhem that ultimately forced the EPA to temporarily shut the plant down. The audits will tell us and Virgin Islanders what is needed for Limetree to restart safely and better enable the media to help residents hold the government, Limetree, the EPA and any future investor accountable.

Many thanks for offering to assist!

Patricia

Patricia Borns

Virgin Islands Source

Cell/Whatsapp: (340) 227-8275

@PatriciaBorns

[linkedin.com/in/patriciaborns](https://www.linkedin.com/in/patriciaborns)

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Patricia_B** <patriciaborns@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Jun 28, 2021 at 4:20 PM

Subject: Media query and FOIA request on deadline

To: Mears, Mary <Mears.Mary@epa.gov>, Rodriguez, Elias <rodriguez.elias@epa.gov>, Senn, John <senn.john@epa.gov>

All,

For a story as soon as feasible about the findings of possible refinery deficiencies based on the independent audits of Limetree, we understand the audits were in on Friday and request that you provide us with a digital copy. Even if the EPA wishes to issue a press release on the findings, we request the audits now to allow us time to read and absorb the contents.

Separately, it appears all of the EPA's air quality monitors registered exceedances on June 26/27. Does EPA still plan to remove them?

With thanks and kind regards,

Patricia

Patricia Borns

Virgin Islands Source

Cell/Whatsapp: (340) 227-8275

@PatriciaBorns

[linkedin.com/in/patriciaborns](https://www.linkedin.com/in/patriciaborns)